

HFMC Prayer Point

By Ed Adshead

I was reminded on Sunday past of what Jesus had to say about praying when Jason Devries spoke at the opening of the Society Meeting. He spoke of how Jesus taught His followers to pray using what we now call, or know of as, "The Lord's Prayer", Matthew 6:8-13

However, in the preceding verses Jesus also tells His followers and that includes us today, how not to pray and what not to do.

How Not to Pray

Matthew 6:5&7

- ⁵ "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
- ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

Jesus reminds His followers and each of us individually that God the Father knows our needs even before we ask of Him in Prayer

- ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

How to Pray

- ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Prayer

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

- We are to acknowledge that God the Father in heaven is the one and true living God of the universe.

We are to acknowledge that He and he alone is Holy.

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

- We are to ask that His Will be done here on this earth where we live today, as His will is constantly and continually being done in heaven
- Help us to live our lives here on earth as You and those in heaven live.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

- We are to ask Him to meet our daily need for sustenance

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

- As our Father in heaven through His love and mercy has forgiven us, we are also in like manner to forgive others.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,^[a]
but deliver us from the evil one.^[b]

We are constantly bombarded by Satan and the evil influences of the secular world. We ask God to keep us from these influences and protect us from the schemes of the evil one on a daily basis. The things that we can't do for ourselves and that only God can do for us.

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

I also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Our Prayer

Help us always to acknowledge You as the one true living God of the universe.

Help us to live our lives in a manner that always brings praise, honour and glory to You and Your name.

Thank You for Your love, Your grace and Your mercy towards us.

Open our hearts and minds to the prompting of Your Holy Spirit.

Help us to act immediately on the promptings of Your Holy Spirit.

Help us to remember first in all of life's situations that You will be with us and never leave us.

Help us to remember the prayer Jesus taught his followers and help us to pray it often.

We thank You and give You praise, honour and glory through the name of Your Son Jesus.

Amen and Amen